

THE SATURDAY REVIEW

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The present industrial dispute makes it necessary for the SATURDAY REVIEW to appear this week in this unusual and abbreviated form. It is our hope to post it in this form to subscribers until such time as circumstances permit us again to produce the paper in the normal way.

We can offer readers little enough. The greatest need for the nation at this crisis is steadiness, and a resolve to refrain from any action or comment which may add to the chances of disaster or detract from the hopes of peace. It is not a moment for the expression of partisan opinions, however strongly we may feel in the matter. It is rather an occasion for doing all within our power to further the cause of peace and to bridge the gulf which the declaration of a general strike has set between organized labour and the recognized authority of the State as vested by the Constitution in the Government.

The original dispute between miners and mine-owners has for the time being been superseded. When the present strike is over, that dispute will have to be taken up where it was left off last Monday evening and an agreement somehow reached. But for the moment it is no longer a matter for consideration: the action of the Trade Union Council in calling a general sympathetic strike has superimposed on the original ground of controversy an entirely new situation, in the face of which the pros and cons of the miners' case become temporarily insignificant. That situation is simply this: has an organized minority the right to attempt to hold up the nation and to challenge the authority of the Government by means of a stoppage in order to enforce certain economic demands? Those of us who deny that right believe in the ultimate event it entails the substitution of an alternative form of government - in other words, that it is definitely a revolutionary movement. The Government, democratically elected to represent the people, must obviously oppose unalter-

ingly any such attempt to usurp its authority. It is a question of principle, and of principle so clear-cut as to admit of no compromise and no neutrality.

That the principle involved is appreciated by all is a fact that clearly emerged from the debate in the House of Commons on Wednesday evening. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald made a speech which, in the circumstances, was both sincere and courageous. He refused to withdraw one word of his condemnations of the weapon of the general strike. But he was careful to point out that he spoke personally, and not for the Trade Union Congress. "I am speaking for nobody", he said. "I have not consulted with my colleagues. I am speaking from my own heart because I believe I know what all this will mean as the days grow into weeks and the weeks (I hope not, but it may be so) grow into months. I am an outsider, I stand apart. I am not a member of a trade union and therefore I am a little freer than some of my colleagues and, therefore, I can do things for which I may be blamed tomorrow. But I cannot let pass this opportunity of telling the House what is in my heart, and if it be rejected - well, I have done my best and no man can do more".

If the same spirit of common-sense and conciliation animated all on his side the General Strike would never have occurred; equally, it could be called off to-morrow. The Government cannot admit the right of the Unions to dictate to the country by means of violence, and will stand firm in that resolve. But once the strike notices are withdrawn, negotiations can recommence immediately. On that point Mr. Baldwin has been explicit. "I would only repeat what I said on Monday" he declared in the House on Wednesday, "that no government that might be in power could ever

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yield to a general strike. The moment the general strike is called off the Government are prepared to resume negotiations".

Of Mr. Baldwin's own sincerity of purpose the country needs no reassurance. On Monday evening, on the eve of the general stoppage, he made a speech which, moving as it was, should set the tone for all open-minded and well-disposed persons during the days ahead of us:

"It may well be - indeed, I know - that I shall be ... told among other things, 'This is the end of all your dreamy visionary speeches about peace and all that kind of thing'. Let me say this: I have worked for two years to the utmost of my ability in one direction. I have failed so far. Everything that I care for is being smashed to bits at this moment. That does not take away from me either my faith or my courage. We may in this House to-day be full of strife. Before long, the angel of peace, with healing in his wings, will be among us again, and when he comes let us be there to meet him. I shall pick up the bits. I shall start again, and I may not see what I have dreamed of in my lifetime, but I know that the seed I have tried to plant in men's hearts these two years is germinating. I know it is germinating in the hearts and the minds of men, and it is in that direction, and in that direction alone, that we shall pass, after much suffering, through deep waters and through storms to the better land for which we hope."

These words cannot be repeated too often, or given too wide a publicity. That is the spirit which should animate the nation during its present calamity. Violence there may be, bitterness there must be; but so long as there is a man at the head of affairs who, whatever his faults, has Mr. Baldwin's idealism and will-to-peace, the country which supports him need not despair.

For let us make no mistake about it, idealism and a will-to-peace are necessary if the ultimate catastrophe is to be averted. Out of the present situation many things may come, and none more easily than bloodshed and chaos. We do not believe there is any possibility of victory for the Unions, but in the course of incurring their defeat many dangers will arise. Violence can only embitter and prolong the fight. Already there have been acts of violence, and as the struggle proceeds the temptations to extremism will be more acute.

Happily, there are on both sides men of goodwill, who know that nothing but evil can come of a fight to a finish. The tragedy of the dispute lies in the fact that, as Mr. Churchill reminded Parliament last Monday, the workers may well be worse off after it than before it and will, moreover, as defeated men, go in danger of exploitation at the hands of reactionaries. The war taught us that violence is never of any avail, that it brings to both sides only loss. Is it too much to expect the Unions to swallow their pride and call off the strike, so that negotiations can be resumed? But call it off first they must, for no government can possibly admit the right of any body within the State to challenge the State's authority.

Every effort has been made to ensure that copies of this emergency issue of the SATURDAY REVIEW should reach Subscribers punctually. The Government, however, are unable to guarantee the postal services and we therefore ask the indulgence of any readers who may receive their copies late.

We hope to be able to resume normal publication at an early date, but must wait upon events. Subscriptions will be extended on expiration for a period corresponding with that during which normal issues of the paper may have to be suspended.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

Constitutional Government is being attacked. Let all good citizens whose livelihood and labour have thus been put in peril bear with fortitude and patience the hardships with which they have been so suddenly confronted. Stand behind the Government, who are doing their part, confident that you will co-operate in the measures they have undertaken to preserve the liberties and privileges of the people of these islands. The laws of England are the people's birth-right. The laws are in your keeping. You have made Parliament their guardian. The General Strike is a challenge to Parliament and is the road to anarchy and ruin.

STANLEY BALDWIN

NEW BOOKS AT A GLANCE

The following list will serve as a guide to the latest books issued by the Publishers. Notice under this heading does not preclude or prejudice subsequent review.

Two massive additions to historical literature are made by Cambridge simultaneously. The fourth volume of the "Cambridge Ancient History" (Cambridge University Press, 35s. net) deals with the Persian Empire and the West, with Mr. J.A.R. Munro, Professor Adcock and Mr. F.M. Cornford among the principal contributors. The fifth volume of the "Cambridge Medieval History" (Cambridge University Press, 50s. net) treats of the contest between the Empire and the Papacy.

We descend to the contemporary world in "Dollar Diplomacy" by S. Nearing and J. Freeman (Allen and Unwin, 10s. 6d.) in which an inquiry is made into the manner in which the United States is making the world safe for the dollar.

"Twenty-four Woodcuts of Cambridge" (Bodley Head, 15s. net) offers us the work of Mr. J.F. Greenwood with only the bare minimum of text required by those who may not be acquainted with the history of Cambridge Colleges. The subject seems to have been made for Mr. Greenwood; he responds to every architectural appeal of Cambridge.

In "Village Idylls" (Noel Douglas, 12s. 6d. net) a large number of sketches and stories and studies by Mr. S.L. Bensusan are brought together with a preface by Mr. Israel Zangwill, who is highly appreciative, but makes the queer comment that Mr. Bensusan has been prejudiced with the ordinary reader because he

deals with the poor. Since when did fiction become so very snobbish?

Mr. George Rostrevor Hamilton has selected certain pieces from the three volumes of verse he published under the name of George Rostrevor, added some new poems, and dedicated the result "The Making" (Heinemann, 3s. 6d. net) to Bergson. Philosophy, we are to understand, underlies his fantasy. But that, as Charles Lamb said of Coleridge's sermons, may be only his fun.

"Evolution in Modern Art" (Harrap, 7s. 6d. net) enables us to follow, in the stimulating company of Mr. Frank Rutter, the development of painting from 1870 to 1925.

"The Romantic Diplomat", by Maurice Paléologue (Hutchinson, 12s. 6d. net) studies that being as represented by Talleyrand, Metternich and Chateaubriand.

"Ouroboros" (Kegan Paul, 2s. 6d. net) is Mr. Gaunt Garrett's vision of the mechanical future of mankind.

In the "Masters of Music" series, which now reaches its fourth volume, we have "Johannes Brahms" (Kegan Paul, 7s. 6d. net) by Jeffrey Pulver.

The third volume of Thorburn's important work on "British Birds" (Longmans, 16s. net) will be welcomed by its special public.

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CITY NOTES

Business on the Stock Exchange has fallen off and is now reduced to a negligible quantity. Up to the moment of writing these notes there has been no sign of panic, markets being dull rather than flat.

BOOTH'S

Sir Charles Cottier, Chairman of Booths Distilleries, had a tale of continued progress to unfold at the General Meeting held last week. The gross

profits of the Company have grown from £42,275 in 1921 to £193,667 in 1924. The Chairman reported that this progress continued to be maintained, the profits for 1925 having been increased to £216,254.

"Denton's Review" of tea and Tea Shares for the first quarter of 1926 contains much that is interesting and instructive. The Imports for the three months ended March 31, 1926, with a comparison of the previous year are shown as follows:

	1925 lbs.	1926 lbs.
Indian	82,276,033	60,308,028
Ceylon	30,362,886	31,082,029
China	5,798,074	2,864,810
Java, Sumatra, etc.	17,192,394	16,934,554
Other Countries	797,566	978,121
Total	136,426,953	112,167,542

Home Consumption figures for the three months ended March 31,

1926, with a comparison of the previous year are as follows:

	1925 lbs.	1926 lbs.
Indian	54,529,858	63,014,875
Ceylon	24,648,208	24,700,748
China	3,886,546	2,652,671
Java, Sumatra, etc.	10,172,900	11,307,078
Other Countries	147,169	309,156
Total	93,384,681	101,984,528

The increase of $8\frac{1}{2}$ million lbs. for the three months is satisfactory in view of the already large consumption figures in this country.

As regards the current season's prospects the Review points out that from available information, the new season which is now open-

ing has the advantage of a strong statistical position which leaves little surplus tea, if any, to meet the ever increasing demand. Attention is drawn to the big scope that exists for the increased consumption of tea throughout the world, especially in the United States Market, Russia and India.

LATEST QUOTATIONS

War Loan 99 $\frac{1}{4}$	Cortaulds 6 3/16	Royal Dutch 32
Consols 54	Distillers 52s.	Mexican Eagle 20s. 6d.
	Dunlop 22s. 3d.	
	(Ex.Div)	
Home Rails	Mines	Newspapers
L.M.S. Ord. 70 $\frac{1}{4}$	Rio Tinto 36	Associated Def. 6 $\frac{3}{8}$
Southern	Chartered 23s.	Daily Mail Trust 2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Rly. (Def). 41 $\frac{7}{8}$	Union Cor-	Sunday Pictorial 3 $\frac{1}{4}$
G.W.R. 82 $\frac{1}{2}$	poration 21 21/32	
	De Beers 14	
Industrials	Oil	
B.A.Ts. 111s.	Shell 4 $\frac{5}{8}$	
Imperial		
Tobacco 96s. 9d.		

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